

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON SC
700 AM EDT TUE MAY 26 2015

...NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK CONTINUES...

HURRICANES AND OTHER TROPICAL CYCLONES CREATE NUMEROUS
HAZARDS...INCLUDING STORM SURGE...DAMAGING WINDS...FLOODING
RAINFALL... TORNADOES...RIP CURRENTS...HIGH SURF AND BEACH EROSION.
TODAY WE WILL DISCUSS DAMAGING WINDS AND TORNADOES.

DAMAGING WINDS...

TROPICAL CYCLONES CAN PRODUCE STRONG WINDS THAT LAST FOR A LONG PERIOD OF
TIME. HURRICANE FORCE WINDS...74 MILES PER HOUR OR GREATER...CAN
DESTROY POORLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDINGS AND MOBILE HOMES AND CAN BRING
DOWN TREES AND POWER LINES. DEBRIS...SUCH AS SIGNS...ROOFING
MATERIAL AND ITEMS LEFT OUTSIDE BECOME FLYING MISSILES IN
HURRICANES. IN EXTREME CASES...SUCH HURRICANE ANDREW IN 1992...WINDS
WITHIN THE EYEWALL CAN CREATE CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE EVEN TO WELL-
CONSTRUCTED BUILDINGS. WINDS CAN OFTEN REMAIN ABOVE HURRICANE
STRENGTH WELL AWAY FROM THE COAST. FOR EXAMPLE...IN 1989 HURRICANE
HUGO REMAINED A HURRICANE WELL AFTER LANDFALL ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA
COAST...EVEN BATTERING THE CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA AREA WITH
HURRICANE FORCE GUSTS AND DAMAGING MANY STRUCTURES...TREES AND POWER
LINES.

TORNADOES...

TROPICAL CYCLONES CAN CAUSE TORNADOES IN RAIN BANDS WELL AWAY FROM THE
CENTER AS WELL AS NEAR THE CENTER IN AND AROUND THE EYE WALL. IN
2004...THE REMNANTS OF HURRICANE FRANCES...WHICH HAD MADE LANDFALL
IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA...PRODUCED 20 CONFIRMED TORNADOES ACROSS
SOUTHEAST SOUTH CAROLINA AND SOUTHEAST GEORGIA. EVEN WEAKENING
TROPICAL CYCLONES CAN CONTINUE TO PRODUCE TORNADOES ACROSS INLAND
AREAS WELL AFTER LANDFALL. THE REMNANTS OF HURRICANE GRACIE...WHICH
ROARED ASHORE NEAR BEAUFORT SOUTH CAROLINA IN SEPTEMBER 1959 SPAWNED
A TORNADO NEAR CHARLOTTEVILLE VIRGINIA WHICH PRODUCED 12 FATALITIES.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HURRICANES VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES...

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER...WWW.HURRICANES.GOV

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CHARLESTON...WWW.WEATHER.GOV/CHS/TROPICAL

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